

REMARKS

i. Status of the claims

Claims 1, 3-8, 12, and 14-17 are pending. Claims 9, 10, 13, and 18 have been canceled herewith without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 11, and 19 were previously canceled. Of course, Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing applications to the canceled subject matter.

ii. Claims 9, 10, 13, and 18 have been canceled. Therefore the rejections are moot

Solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution and advancing this application to allowance, Applicants have canceled rejected claims 9, 10, 13, and 18. Accordingly, the Office's rejections of claims 9, 10, 13, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, are moot.

Since the Office indicated in point 7 (page 4 of the Office Action) that remaining claims 1, 3-8, 12, and 14-17 are allowable, Applicants consider this application to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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